

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-23. (canceled).

24. (currently amended) ~~A bone instrumentation cover or shield according to claim 23, A~~
bone instrumentation cover capable of being installed over bone instrumentation which projects
from the bone during bone repair or reconstruction surgical procedure on an animal comprising:
a hollow cap sized for encapsulating a part of a bone instrumentation which has been
installed in bone, the hollow cap adapted for placement in the body of the animal and for
encapsulating a part of the bone instrumentation which projects from the bone, the hollow cap
being adapted to provide a medically safe physical barrier between the part of the bone
instrumentation and the surrounding bone and soft tissue, the hollow cap being adapted to
separate the part of the bone instrumentation from substantially all of the surrounding soft tissue
so that the hollow cap prevents ingrowth of substantially all of the surrounding soft tissue
through the cap into the bone instrumentation which projects from the bone,

the hollow cap having a fastener portion adapted for securing the cap to the bone
instrumentation portion which projects from the bone, and

wherein the fastener portion includes

a cinch ring provided with openings therein, said cinch ring not being a part of said hollow cap, and said cinch ring being tubular in form having one or more draw strings for tightening the hollow cap circumferentially around the instrumentation during said bone repair or reconstruction surgical procedure, and

a suture string for securing the hollow cap to one of adjacent bone and adjacent tissue.

25. (previously presented) A bone instrumentation cover according to claim 24, further including a plurality of first suture strings each first suture string having a first end and a second end, the first ends of the first suture strings being fixedly connected to the hollow cap, and the second ends of the first suture strings are threaded through the cinch ring for tightening the hollow cap to the cinch ring with the hollow cap extending over the bone instrumentation installed during the bone repair or reconstruction surgical procedure.

26. (previously presented) A bone instrumentation cover according to claim 25, further including a second suture string with a first end of the second suture string coupled to an edge of the cap and with a second end of the second suture string coupled to the cinch ring.

27. (previously presented) A bone instrumentation cover according to claim 26, further including an additional second suture string with a first end of the additional second suture string coupled to an edge of the cap and with a second end of the additional second suture string attached to the cinch ring and wherein the second suture string and additional second suture string are on opposite sides of the hollow cap.

28. (previously presented) A bone instrumentation cover according to claim 27, wherein the hollow cap is adapted for removal in a subsequent surgical procedure.

29. (currently amended) A bone instrumentation cover according to claim [[23]] 24, wherein the hollow cap ~~eneapsulates~~ is adapted to encapsulate substantially all of the bone instrumentation which projects from the bone.

30-31 (canceled).

32. (currently amended) ~~A bone instrumentation cover according to claim 31, A bone instrumentation cover capable of being installed in vivo over the bone instrumentation during bone repair or reconstruction surgical procedure comprising:~~

a hollow cap shaped to encapsulate a part of a pedicle screw which has been installed in bone in the body of a human, the hollow cap being shaped to encapsulate a part of the pedicle screw which projects from the bone and is in the body of the human, the hollow cap being adapted for permanent placement in the body of the human, the hollow cap being adapted to separate the part of the pedicle screw in the body of the human from surrounding bone and soft tissue, the hollow cap separating the part of the pedicle screw from substantially all of the surrounding soft tissue so that the hollow cap prevents ingrowth of bone or tissue through the cap into the part of the pedicle screw which projects from the bone,

a fastener for snugly securing the cap to the pedicle screw,
sutures that are absorbable in vivo for securing the hollow cap to one of adjacent bone and adjacent tissue, and

wherein the sutures include a plurality of adjustable suture strings each adjustable suture string having a first end and a second end, the first ends of the adjustable suture strings being fixedly connected to the hollow cap, and the second ends of the adjustable suture strings are threaded through a cinch ring tightening the hollow cap to the cinch ring with the hollow cap extending over the pedicle screw installed during the bone repair or reconstruction surgical procedure.

33. (previously presented) A bone instrumentation cover according to claim 32, further including a non-adjustable suture string with a first end of the non-adjustable suture string tied to a lower edge of the cap and with a second end of the non-adjustable suture string attached to the cinch ring.

34. (previously presented) A bone instrumentation cover according to claim 32, wherein the cinch ring has openings therein, said cinch ring not being a part of said hollow cap, and said cinch ring being a tubular form.

35-37 (canceled).

38. (currently amended) A bone instrumentation cover according to claim ~~[[23]]~~ 24, wherein the hollow cap is made of a medically safe material consisting of ~~GoreTex™, or Daeron™ or~~ polyurethane.

39. (currently amended) A bone instrumentation cover according to claim ~~[[30]]~~ 32, wherein the hollow cap is made of a medically safe material consisting of ~~GoreTex™, or Daeron™ or~~ polyurethane.

40-44 (canceled).

45. (currently amended) The combination of claim ~~[[23]]~~ 24, wherein the hollow cap comprises hydrogel.